

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-04

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DRAFTED BY: EA/PRCM:NBGUENTHER

APPROVED BY: EA/PRCM:TSBROOKS

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R 232229Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 082818

FOLLOWING REPEAT TAIPEI 2499 ACTION SECSTATE 20 APR

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 2499

EO 11652 NA

TAGS PFOR EFIS TW CH

SUBJECT: INTERCEPTION OF PRC FISHING BOATS

HW REPEAT FOR YOUR INFORMATION COMUSTDC

MSG 191504Z APR 74

RECEIVED BY AMEMBASSY AS UNCLAS

QUOTE

SUBJECT INTERCEPTION OF PRC FISHING BOATS

1. AT 190315Z APR 74, A CHINAT S-2 AIRCRAFT SPOTTED FOUR
200 TON PRC FISHING BOATS LOCATED AT 24-15N, 120-00E. THE
CHINAT NAVY SENT TWO DD-S, ONE DE AND ONE TUG TO INVESTIGATE
THE FISING BOATS. EACH FISHING VESSEL CONTAINS
30-40 CREW MEMBERS. IT APPEARS
THAT NO WEAPONS OR COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT ARE
ON BOARD THE VESSELS. APPARENTLY WITH NO OR EXPECTED
OPPOSITION THE CHINAT NAVY IS ESCORTING THE FOUR VESSELS,
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WITH ONE IN TOW, TO MAKUNG, WITH AN ETA AT MAKUNG OF

191930Z APRIL 74

2. CHINESE NAVY AND MND OFFICERS HAVE ASSURED THE U.S. THAT THE CREW MEMBERS WILL BE TREATED IN A HUMANITARIAN FASHION, QUESTIONED, GIVEN FOOD AND RELEASED. A 20 MILE DEFENSE LINE AROUND MAKUNG HAS BEEN USED BY THE NOC AS BASIS FOR INTERCEPTING THE BOATS, HOWEVER, HIGH LEVEL CHINESE NAVY AND MND OFFICERS DECLINE TO SPECIFICALLY ACKNOWLEDGE EXISTANCE OF SUCH A LINE.

3. GRC IS TAKING INCIDENT IN A LOW KEY AND SUGGESTED WE CONFINE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS UNTIL NORMAL WORKING HOURS, GRC SOURCES UNANIMOUSLY JUSTIFY INTERCEPTION AS BEING NECESSARY TO PREVENT SPYING AND DECLINE TO DISCUSS THE SPECIFIC 3 MILES INTERNATIONAL WATER LIMIT, THE INFERENCE BEING THAT BETWEEN GRC AND PRC A 3 MILE LIMIT IS NOT APPLICABLE. THIS IS IN LINE WITH, A LONG STANDING INTERPRETATION BY GRC THAT THE PRC MAY NOT INTRUDE IN THE TAIWAN STRAITS.
UNQUOTE
GLEYSTEN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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